



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

Vol. 3, Iss. 6

New Castle, Delaware

July 2009

City Council to consider enacting curfew; increasing fees

The New Castle City Council will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, to consider an ordinance allowing the Council to set fees by

Resolution. During the regular meeting the same night, the first and second reading of that ordinance is planned. The third reading and adoption is set for

August 11. After that, the Council plans to adopt a Resolution increasing fees for a variety of items, including building
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City to mail tax bills

Tax bills will be mailed the week beginning July 13. Tax bills for homeowners with taxes in escrow with their mortgages will be delivered directly to mortgage holders. Property owners expecting to receive a bill directly which has not been delivered by July 24 should contact the tax office at 322-9811. All bills paid on or before August 31 are eligible to receive a 2 percent discount.

"If Colonial Williamsburg is the heavy, dangling necklace of colonial history, Delaware's Old New Castle is the rare gem."

A description of New Castle by writer Michael Schuman on Grandparents.com

FREE Concerts in Battery Park Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

July 1 Diamond State Concert Band
Great toe tapping music from Sousa to show tunes!

July 8 The Newark Community Band
Melodies galore... we've got it all!

July 15 The Chesapeake (Silver Cornet) Brass Band
Golden era concert band...brassy 'n' classy!

July 22 First State Symphonic Band
Marches, patriotic songs and show tunes!

July 29 The Serenaders — Walt Wagner
Swing and dance with the sentimental touch!

Co-Funded by the Mayor & Council of New Castle
and the Trustees of the New Castle Common

Presented by New Castle Hundred Lions Club

Recycle schedule changes

The Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) has changed pickup days for curbside recycling in New Castle. Recycling continues to be picked up every other Tuesday, however pickup has been shifted by one week for the remainder of the year. Recycle dates on the City calendars are now inaccurate. On the calendar, for any date listing Recycle Pickup, there will be no pickup, and for any Tuesday which does not list Recycle Pickup, pickup will occur on those

Tuesdays. Place recyclables out before 7 a.m. Following is a list of the pickup dates for the rest of the year:

July 14	July 28
August 11	August 25
September 9	(this is a <u>Wednesday</u>
pickup, due to Labor Day Holiday)	
September 22	October 6
October 20	November 3
November 17	December 1
December 15	December 29

(Clip this item and attach to the City Calendar.)

New Castle – The First Capital City!

City Council actions contemplated

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permits, business and rental licenses and application fees for the Historic Area Commission.

All persons wishing to express views on the proposal are encouraged to attend and participate. Written comments in advance of the hearing may be dropped off at, or mailed to, 220 Delaware St., New Castle, DE

19720; or e-mail comments to CathrynThomas@NewCastleCity.org.

At their last meeting, City Council members received comments on a proposed curfew law. The new City ordinance would prohibit persons under 18 from being outside without adult supervision from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. from September 1 through May 31 and from

midnight to 5 a.m. from June 1 through August 31.

This proposal is being considered in an effort to address concerns expressed by residents about minors engaging in inappropriate, and sometimes illegal, activities in the overnight hours. At the July 14 regular meeting, Council members plan to have a third reading and will consider adoption of this ordinance.

Public employees deserve kudos for storm response

At about 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, a storm rolled through Delaware, with severe impact on New Castle. Winds of up to 76 mph were recorded at the nearby New Castle Airport.

Most astonishing was the very short duration of the storm relative to the destruction it wrought. The very best news to come out of the disaster was that no injuries or deaths occurred, in spite of significant property damage.

Ironically, when the storm hit was the end of the work day for City Public Works and some Municipal Services Commission (MSC) personnel. Many were just headed home, and when they observed the storm they returned to work, realizing their services would be needed.

City and MSC staff worked in conjunction with one another. Reports of the heaviest damage came from Dobbinsville and the downtown area. A few homes

in Dobbinsville had their roofs torn off and were uninhabitable for a period of time.

Downed trees blocked Third and Market Streets. On Second Street, near Chestnut, a huge tree was uprooted, however had only fallen a short distance before landing on the corner of the roof of a house. It was so large, however, the City required help from outside contractors for the removal, including employing a large crane to lift major portions of the trunk away from the house.

City and MSC employees are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. Many worked on that day from the beginning of their regular day at 7 a.m. through the end of the very initial storm clean-up, close to 11 p.m. the same day.

Code Enforcement Corner

Code Enforcement helps maintain and improve the quality of life for City residents by administering an unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of City zoning, property maintenance and building codes; and by working with residents, neighborhoods, public service agencies and other City offices.

Complaint forms are available at the City offices or on the City Web site at www.NewCastleCity.org. Complaints are handled on a confidential basis. If feedback and/or updates are requested, however, a name, address and phone number must be provided.

This month's highlights; general reminders...

- 140-15A - No unregistered/inoperable motor vehicles are allowed to be parked/stored in the City unless inside a fully enclosed building.
- 140-15B - The open storage for any period of time on residentially zoned property of any items designed and manufactured to be used and stored in an enclosed building is prohibited.
- 140-15C - The open storage of debris, for example, but not limited to dead trees, which are still standing, trash, rock, rubble, broken concrete, and similar materials is prohibited in residentially zoned districts.
- 140-18B - Grass/weeds must be maintained within permitted limits.

New Trash Pickup Times
6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
June 29 to September 25

**The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Aug. 11 at
Town Hall**